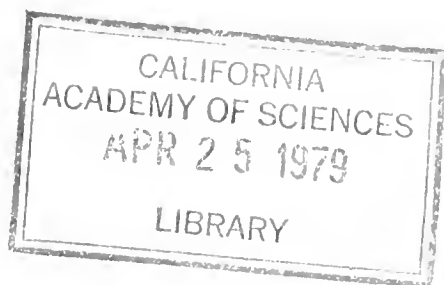


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the gull

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Number 5

Dinner Alfresco, then Alaska

The fourth annual May picnic dinner and membership meeting on Thursday, May 10 sponsored by the Conservation Committee, will feature nature walks, two award winning films and a program on wild Alaska. Pack a picnic and plan to meet on the grass at the Tilden Park Nature Center. From north Berkeley, drive up Spruce Street until you reach the intersection of Grizzly Peak Boulevard and Spruce. Cross this and immediately turn left downhill on Cañon Drive. At the bottom of the hill turn left again to reach the Nature Area.

At 6:30 p.m. you may take a wildflower walk or go birding with knowledgeable leaders. Either activity will get you back to the Environmental Center for the 7:30 program. The two films to be shown are "Admiralty Island, Fortress of the Bears" and "Alaska, Land in the Balance." Both are vivid explorations of the northern wilderness and will provide background to the legislative battle now going on in Congress to preserve wild Alaska lands. A coordinator of the Alaska Coalition will be on hand to provide an update and answer any questions, so plan to be there!

—GARY QUIEN, *Conservation Chairman*

In Search of New Members for GGAS

see page 70

Published each month except August by the Golden Gate Audubon Society, office address 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94705. Second class postage paid in Berkeley, CA.

Each Member Bring in a Member

If you have a friend or acquaintance whom you believe would enjoy being a member of the Audubon Society please take the time to call the office (843-2222). We will then send out an invitation for membership along with an explanation of the goals and objectives of Audubon.

By going directly through the local chapter the new member would *immediately* start receiving his monthly *Gull* and the national society's *Audubon* magazine shortly thereafter.

Please try to help us out with at least one new name. Thank you.

—BOB HIRT

Field Trips Calendar

\$ indicates entrance fee required

Sunday, May 6 — Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at Rock City parking area. From Oakland go east on I-580 then north on I-680 to Danville and follow the signs east on Diablo Rd. to the park. The first available parking is at Rock City, about one mile inside the south entrance station gate. Bring lunch and liquids. Be prepared to walk about a mile to the most productive birding area of the South Gate Rd. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). \$ (✓)

Wednesday, May 9 — Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot on Arlington Ave. near the Kensington library and Community Church to carpool. We will see spring birds of the area. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Anyone who needs a ride call Ruth Voss, leader. (525-8032).

Saturday, May 12 — Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the parking lot just inside the entrance station. Take Hwy. 12 north from Sonoma about 10 miles to Adobe Canyon Rd. (just past Kenwood). Turn right to the park. Bring lunch and liquids. We will hike through riparian, chaparral, woodland and open field habitats to see birds common to these environments. Leader: Peter White (339-9234). \$ (✓)

Sunday, May 13 — San Francisco Presidio. Meet at 8 a.m. inside the Presidio at Lincoln Blvd. and Anza (Muni busses #45, 28 and 43). Lunch optional. We should see Hooded Orioles as well as other species common to the Presidio. Leader: Donna Dittman (468-2688) (✓)

Wednesday, May 16 — Tilden Park, Berkeley. Meet at the Nature Center at 8:30 a.m. We'll see spring birds and other species common to the area. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha de Timofeev and Ruth Voss. (632-5176).

Saturday, May 29 — Flicker Ridge (exploratory trip). Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Valle Vista Staging Area. Take Hwy. 24 to the Orinda exit. Go south on Moraga Way 4 miles to a T intersection. Turn right on Canyon Rd. The Valle Vista Staging Area is about 1 mile along Canyon Rd. on your left. We will observe birds, trees and wildflowers associated with a number of East Bay habitats and discuss environmental features relating to these diverse communities. Leader: Malcolm Sproul (841-3086). (✓)

Friday - Sunday, May 18-20 — North Yosemite. In this spring trip we will explore the lower elevations of the northern end of the park including Big Meadows, Crane Flat, Tuolumne Grove Rd., Hodgdon Meadow and/or Hetch Hetchy. A variety of hikes should enable us to see many birds and only a few people.

To reach our group camp at Foresta, watch for a road sign marked "Foresta" just north of the 2 tunnels on Big Oak Flat Rd. (leading from south to north entrance in the park). About 4 miles down the Foresta road just before reaching the settlement of Foresta watch for a GGAS sign. Turn left to group campgrounds. The nearest motels are all 20 miles or more from the meeting places. If approaching from Merced try the small town of El Portal for reservations. On the north side try the Sugar Pine Ranch Motel near Groveland along Hwy. 120 (209-962-7823). *Get a map to orient yourself and please call our transportation coordinator (see carpooling note below) for riders and rides.*

Meet **Friday, May 18 at 5 p.m.** and **Saturday, May 19 at 8 a.m.** at the Foresta group campground. If you are late Saturday look for us around Foresta and adjoining Big Meadows where we'll bird until at least 10 a.m. On **Sunday, May 20** meet at **8 a.m.** at the Big Oak Flat Rd. entrance station at the north end of the park. Bring waterproof shoes and warm clothing.

Leaders: George Peyton (531-5588), Marie Mans (284-7681) and Dave Rice (865-3147). \$ (✓)

Saturday, May 26 — Alum Rock Park, San Jose. Meet at **9 a.m.** in front of the Youth Science Institute (last parking lot). Take U.S. Hwy. 101 south to Alum Rock Ave. Exit and go east to the park. Lunch optional. We should see breeding birds in this area. Leader: Candace Beach (258-4322). (✓)

Saturday, June 2 — Mt. St. Helena. Meet at **8 a.m.** at the junction of Ida Clayton Rd. and Hwy. 128, 6.3 miles north of Calistoga. Bring lunch and liquids. Carpool if at all possible since parking is limited and we must caravan to bird the road. Leader: Mike Parmeter (707-255-6757). (✓)

Saturday/Sunday, June 16 & 17 — Yuba Pass and vicinity. On Saturday meet at 9 a.m. at Wild Plum Campground. On Sunday meet at the intersection of Hwy. 49 and 89 at 7:30 a.m.

Take I-80 to Truckee, go north on Hwy. 89 to Sierraville and take Hwy. 49 west to Wild Plum Campground, about ½ mile from Sierra City. Or take Hwy. 49 north east from Auburn. Motels in Sierra City: Sierra Chalet 916-862-1110, Buttes Motel 916-862-1170, Harrington's Sierra Pines 916-862-1151, Bassett Station Motel 916-862-1297, Sierra Buttes Inn Motel 916-862-1191, Yuba River Inn 916-862-1122. Camping is available at the Wild Plum and Chapman campgrounds on Hwy. 49 (U.S. Forest Service). Leader: Peter Allen (981-7199). \$ (✓)

Carpooling: You can arrange carpooling for trips marked (✓). If you do not want to drive or want a passenger or two to share expenses, please call Kate Partridge at work (642-2881, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or at home (548-0779 before 9:30 p.m.). Passengers should be willing to share all expenses incident to the trips including mileage and any fees that may arise.

—FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

March Observations - Through March 28

NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Effective immediately observers should report all observations for *The Gull* directly to me. Observations reported on the Northern California Rare Bird Alert may be cited, but they will only be credited "**fide* NCRBA" unless I have received the report as well. If there is no answer at 548-9507, reports can be phoned to Karen Bailey at 642-3327 (Entomology, UC Berkeley) 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.

THE BIRDS

A Green-winged Teal of the rare Eurasian form ("Common Teal") was found early in March at Bolinas Lagoon, a favored location (*). While the Limantour Tufted Duck remained at least through March 10 another male graced the Mill Valley Yacht Harbor March 7 (*). After a male Harlequin Duck wintered at Moss Landing, a female turned up there March 12 (DdcT). A male Harlequin Duck at Rodeo Cove from March 11 moved to the Lagoon March 22-24 (*). Our previously reported maxima of Black Scoters were eclipsed by 72 at Fort Funston March 3 (*). The Broad-winged Hawk inhabited West Pittsburg through March 27 (DE). Similarly, the three Northern Phalaropes wintered successfully at San Francisco Bay National Refuge, Fremont, as they were refound March 28 (SFB). The discovery of California's tenth

Little Gull (in second winter plumage; subadult) at the Stockton Sewage Ponds March 20 (DE) caused the discovery of California's seventh **Black-headed Gull** (adult) there the same day (DR). Both were the sixth of their species in our half of the state and were still present March 27 (mob, DE).

Palm Warblers were found at El Carmelo Cemetery, Pacific Grove March 3, Greenwood Park, Pacific Grove March 4, and Mendoza Ranch March 4 (*). Three coastal sightings in two days immediately suggest a return movement of this early-migrating warbler, but one should not forget the "weekend effect" or the fact that the two Pacific Grove locations are only one mile apart along a vegetation corridor. Other species lingered at least through the following dates: Northern Shrike near Sacramento March 10 (EM, AM), Black and White Warbler at Watsonville Sewage Plant March 11 (EM, AM), **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Auburn March 10 (EM, AM), Northern Waterthrush at Five Brooks March 10, **Great-tailed Grackle** at Aquatic Park, San Francisco March 25, and two Lark Buntings at Panoche Access Road March 4 (all *). Perhaps as many as four Sharp-tailed Sparrows have skulked along Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas Lagoon, this winter (*).

Observers: Stephen F. Bailey, Delpha de Timofeev, Dick Erickson, Steve Foreman, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, many observers (mob), Greg Miller, Don Roberson, Summer Wilson. **fide* Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California,
Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507, or Karen Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

Conservation Notes

EPA BANS 2,4,5-T. The Environmental Protection Agency has finally used its emergency powers to ban the dangerous herbicide 2,4,5-T for most major uses. The ban came after an Oregon study found that women suffered a significantly higher percentage of miscarriages after surrounding forests were sprayed with the chemical. An estimated 7 million pounds of 2,4,5-T are used each year on forests, pastures and power line rights-of-way. Tests on dioxin, a major component of the herbicide, have shown that it causes birth defects, cancer and miscarriages in laboratory animals, but the new information from Oregon is the first conclusive evidence of its impact on humans, according to the EPA. Meanwhile, major timber interests and the herbicide's main manufacturers are planning to appeal the decision.

RARE II CRITICISM GROWS. Negative public reaction to the U.S. Forest Service's RARE II recommendations seems widespread and increasing around the country as Congress prepares to make decisions on the fate of roadless areas now under FS jurisdiction. Basically, RARE II proposes the opening to exploitation of three out of every five acres of U.S. lands that still remain roadless and wild. Apparently this contradicts the wishes of the great majority of public input responses as well as ignoring most basics of sound land management and long term planning. Trinity County, for example, the only county in the country to have a broad-based public compromise proposal for RARE II, had its suggestions virtually ignored by the Forest Service. This was after the California Resources Agency officially endorsed the county proposal. The preliminary Forest Service recommendations, which have the solid backing of the timber mining and oil interests will now go before Congress for final decisions and approval. It is important for supporters of wilderness preservation to write now to elected officials — congressmen, the governor, the President, etc. — urging full protection for these areas. If possible, letters should deal with specific places giving multiple reasons for protection. If that's not possible a simple statement of feeling will help.

BLM WILDERNESS INVENTORY NOW AVAILABLE. The Bureau of Land Management is also in the process of identifying land for possible wilderness designation. The draft report of the initial inventory is now available for review in the GGAS office. This is the first of three phases — inventory, study, then a report to Congress. Maps are included in this inventory to identify areas meeting the definition of wilderness and the BLM supposedly welcomes and will evaluate all public comment

ALASKA LANDS STILL UNRESOLVED. In spite of President Carter's executive actions saving millions of acres of wild Alaska lands last year a strong Alaska lands bill affecting millions of more acres of wilderness is still being debated in Congress. Development interests and other opponents are confident that the increased energy crunch this year will result in approval of a severely weakened bill. H.R.39 has again been introduced (S222 in the Senate) and is still the best plan for preserving Alaska wilderness while allowing legitimate resource exploitation. Please let your representatives in Congress know how you feel about the Alaska lands issue. Urge their full support for H.R.39 and S222 and ask them to take an active role in promoting the bills and opposing weakened amendments. Also plan to attend the general membership meeting and program this month which will feature some enlightening films on Alaska and an update on the pending legislation.

EAST BAY RR TO BECOME BIKE PATH. The Santa Fe railroad has announced plans to give more than nine miles of little-used track and right-of-way to five East Bay cities — Richmond, El Cerrito, Albany, Berkeley and Oakland. The sixty-foot-wide corridor cuts through largely residential areas and tentative plans call for a linear park and splendid bike and jogging trail running from Richmond into Oakland.

BANK SWALLOWS RETURN. Fort Funston's cliffside-dwelling Bank Swallow colony has again returned to its seaside San Francisco home—and still lacks adequate protection. The birds nest in sand cliffs in the southern end of Golden Gate National Recreation Area and as yet have no real protection from human intrusion and the threat of a steadily eroding habitat. The Park Service has promised action soon, but time is short. These Bank Swallows are the only significant breeding colony in the Bay Area.

SF ARMY ENGINEERS LEAVING? Plans to relocate the San Francisco office of the Army Corps of Engineers are now being studied. The SF branch has long been helpful in protecting Bay Area wet lands and moving it would make this difficult and important task much harder. If you, too, are concerned please write Col. John M. Adset, U.S.A. Eng. Dist., 211 Main St., San Francisco, CA 94102, or our state representatives and senators.

ISHI COUNTRY WILDERNESS CONFERENCE. A three day conference on a proposed Ishi Wilderness encompassing 95,000 acres of the home land of the Yahi Indians will be in Chico, May 4, 5 and 6. Ishi the last of the native Yahis, wandered out of the still rugged and wild foothill country in Tehama County 67 years ago. The conference will feature American Indian movement leader Dennis Banks, the movie "Ishi In Two Worlds," and ecology poet Gary Snyder. Participants will learn the history, uses and choices for the future of this public land, and on Sunday all are invited to hike the Ishi Country for a day. The cost for the entire three days is only \$10 which includes both lunch and dinner on Saturday. To register and for more information, call Steve Evans or Sami Izzo at 916-345-8070: Ishi Task Force, 708 Cherry St., Chico, CA 95926.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Executive Director Change

It is with extremely mixed feelings that the Board of Directors announces the resignation of Vera Paraschak as Executive Director of Golden Gate Audubon. Surely we are happy for her that she has found a job with the National Forest Service that she thinks will add a new

and interesting direction to her life. But there are no words to adequately say to Vera or our membership what she has given us in terms of managing the GGAS office. She has been consistently warm, outgoing and efficient.

We cannot thank her enough for the years she gave us; we can only wish her much happiness and luck in the future.

We have interviewed several well qualified people to take Vera's position and are confident that by the next issue of *The Gull* we can introduce a new Executive Director to you.

—GGAS Board of Directors

Requests for Information on Color-marked Birds

SHOREBIRDS: This summer the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be continuing a study of fall migration routes and strategies of shorebirds from the Yukon Delta and Alaska Peninsula. Large numbers of Dunlin and Western Sandpipers and lesser numbers of Rock Sandpipers and Black Turnstones will be color-banded or color-dyed. If you see one of these birds send your report to Robert Gill, Jr., c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, Alaska 99503. Note species, age, location, date and time, color and location of bands, color of dye and part of bird marked, color and location of metal bands.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS: A three year program to color-mark Double-crested Cormorants was started at Ninepipe National Wildlife Refuge this season as part of a study on a new colony at this western Montana refuge. One purpose of the marking is to determine migration routes and wintering areas of this flock.

Birds are marked with standard USFWS aluminum leg bands plus colored vinyl leg streamers on one or both legs. Each streamer carries a single letter code. The location of the marker and the code letter identify the natal island, tree group and usually specific nest. Colors are yellow (1978), red (1979), blue (1980).

Note color and location of streamer, letter code if possible, date, time and location of sighting, whether bird was in company of other cormorants and plumage. Send report to Marcella M. Bishop, Shoreline Route, Polson, Montana 59860 and Bird Banding Laboratory, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland 20811.

*An Invitation to
Golden Gate
Audubon Society's
Annual Dinner*



Friday, June 15, 1979

GGAS' Annual Dinner will be held at H's Lordships at the south end of the Berkeley Marina on Friday, June 15, 1979. A first this year will be the presentation of the Elsie B. Roemer Conservation Award as well as several other awards.

We are happy to have Congressman Ronald V. Dellums as our honored guest and speaker this year. Congressman Dellums, who has an impressive conservation voting record, has been instrumental in helping GGAS try to preserve the fragile salt marsh of the Emeryville Crescent and will be the recipient of an award.

Mono Lake will be the subject of the program presented by biologist David Gaines of the Mono Lake Committee. We will be provided with an update on the efforts to save this magnificent natural area as well as information on the Committee's activities to try to maintain a 6,378 foot level of water in the lake.

Come join your fellow Audubon members for an evening of friendship, lively conversation and good food in a pleasant setting on the waterfront. Parking is convenient and free. People coming from San Francisco should take the Powell Street exit off Highway 17 near Emeryville which turns onto Frontage Road (consult your East Bay map). A social hour begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be followed by dinner at 7:30.

Please make checks payable to the Golden Gate Audubon Society and mail them to the GGAS office at 2718 Telegraph, #206, Berkeley, CA 94705 with the coupon below. Tickets will not be sent — your confirmation will be checked off a list by the door.

Golden Gate Audubon Society Annual Dinner
Friday, June 15, 1979, 6:30 p.m.
at
H's Lordships
199 Seawall Drive
Berkeley Marina

Enclosed is my check for \$. for dinners at \$10.

Name Phone

Address

News from the Ranch

The Directors of Audubon Canyon Ranch are happy to announce that David Pleydell-Bouverie has taken the first steps in the transfer to the Ranch of 359 acres of his property near Glen Ellen. This beautiful land will be called the Bouverie Audubon Preserve and will eventually be developed as a wildlife sanctuary and center for nature and conservation education. The members of our new governing partner, Madrone Audubon Society, will have the primary responsibility for the development and administration of the preserve. All of us are deeply grateful to Mr. Bouverie for his far-sightedness and generosity.

ACR is open to the public through July 4 on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets are nesting now and the view of their colony from the Henderson Overlook is an unforgettable experience.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

In memory of

Carl V. Sacks

Mrs. A. H. Mendonoa

Gift of

Jacklyn Fleming

Mr. and Mrs. James O. Clayton

For GGAS

In memory of

Fred Bascom

Sandra Gamble

Dorothy M. Duffield

Crowley Company

General donation

Mrs. G. E. Troxell

Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgement will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

2718 Telegraph Avenue, #206

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THE GULL

May 1979

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Librarian, Lisa Johnsen (843-2222)

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$18 per year (individual); \$21 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$4 per year; single issues 40¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**